

full-allotted me, my breath is weak, and the song, too intricate with the finest strains of perfect harmony, floating high above this rasping earth, for my deafened ears to catch the heavenly notes, and my voice but illy tuned to sing the sweetest, richest melodies.

#### THE FULFILLMENT

*Third Scene.*—Mount Calvary. Just outside the Holy City. Time of crucifixion. The hour is noon. But midnight and mid-noon are one. A taunting, seething mob is being hushed by the strange phenomenon, excepting the most reckless of the howling multitude. Everywhere, without, within, and upon the crumbling walls, are scattered motley groups conversing, in shrill tones, or whispers low, about this Nazarene upon the cross, above whose head is written, "*This is Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews.*" Some have pity in their hearts, others love; but most, malicious murder. There are glaring eyes of hatred, and eyes of tenderest sympathy, but all, alike, as with one thought intently watching the same tragedy, gazing on its bleeding features, to behold the agonizing sufferings of the dying man, being crucified between two thieves. Derisive shouts and fiercing taunts are heard above the thrilling cries of human pain. A heart with anguish breaks close to other breaking hearts. Tears of blood are falling, commingling with bitter tears. Man's sorrows are united with God's love, "It is finished." The head is bowed. He is dead—the chosen seed of Abraham—a substitute for sin. He dies alone, the promised blessing, crushed by his own grief for another's guilt. O, my wicked heart! to cause such shame and agony unto the innocent. But I am conscious of my living soul, thank God!

Here is our atonement—salvation "in His Name"—God's holy promise kept, and prophecy fulfilled. Darkness sweeping, covers all the scene, heavens timely burial robe. A rumbling earthquake shakes the temple, and the veil is rent in twain from the top to bottom! Nature shudders with a groan and the swaying rocks are rifted! Quivering earth and shrieking winds, rocking hills and weeping skies, all tremble with emotion to confirm *this man the Son of God.*

M. M. STERLING.

*My grace is sufficient for thee—II Cor. 12:9.*

To decide which one promise is the most precious to me, is somewhat difficult, since the many and varied experiences of life call for the many and varied promises. When first brought to realize our lost condition, John 3:16 is most precious. And if we have not made that one to be all in all to us, we cannot by any right claim any of the other promises of God. The vile sinner feels his only hope is in the latter clause of I John 1:7; "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." To those who have loved ones gone before, the promise of meeting them again is perhaps most dear. To the friendless, homeless, weary and sick,

the fourteenth chapter of John may give the most comfort. To the one going down into the darkness of the tomb, the promise of a glorious resurrection and habitation with his blessed Savior thru all eternity, come first to his heart.

But to me at the present time and experiences of life the promise found in II Cor. 12:9 seems most precious. "My grace is sufficient for thee." Tho given to Paul, thank God his grace is sufficient for any and all of us.

In the first place this promise reveals to me a deep sense of my dependence upon God. So when I feel my weakness and inability to accomplish anything for my Master, this promise comes to be my strength.

When I remember the conditions under which it was given to Paul and I think of the thorns which seemingly needs be in my flesh, as it were,—oh how precious it is. When the pain comes, he may not remove it, but he gives "grace sufficient" that I am able to nobly get the good out of that pain, as did Paul.

When the temptation comes and I fear Satan will conquer, this promise comes forth and enables me to say to him, "Get thee behind me, Satan."

When trials and discouragements present themselves and I feel that even living is in vain and I begin to despair of ever remaining faithful to the end, this promise is precious again.

We as pastors' wives are subject to severe criticism by those who, instead should hold us up by their words. At such times self calls for retaliation, when suddenly the thought comes that such is not the spirit of Christ; yet within ourselves we are unable to overcome until this precious promise is verified.

When the awful responsibility of training a dear little one whom God has entrusted to my care as a mother, looms up before me, I shrink and falter.

"My child, I fear thee! thou'rt a spirit, soul!

How shall I walk before thee? keep my garments whole?

O Lord, give strength, give wisdom for the task  
To train this child for thee! For this I ask."

It is then that voice divine whispers in my ear, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Think of the requirements of a true follower of Christ, of the necessary sacrifices which self is so unwilling to make—how could it ever be possible were it not for that "all-sufficient grace" of God.

The fulfillment of this promise implies the fulfillment of preceding promises in the Christian life, and were it not for this one we would oftentimes feel unable to realize the fulfillment of any following promises. Our faith may be too weak to grasp the promises pertaining to the resurrection, but his grace is sufficient to help us accept them when our faith is weak. Thru this promise we may be enabled to "inherit all things."

There is no one but who has at times, rough, rugged hills to climb in his journey

of life. But remember "There is a most delicate connection between earth's needs and heaven's grace." For the rugged path there will be an iron shoe in the promise of this "sufficient grace."

And at last when we see the angel of death coming for us, can we not hear our Father whisper until we are safe within the fold—  
"*My grace is sufficient for thee.*"

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*The Promise of the Father—Acts 1:4*

God has given us numerous promises in his word, all of which the Apostle Peter says are "exceeding great and precious," declaring that God will do for us "abundantly above all that we ask or think." There are about 3,000 promises in the Bible, which are absolutely complete in their adaptation to all the needs of God's children.

Mr. Moody was once asked which was the most precious of Christ's promises. Taking some time to look over them he found he could not answer the question; but said it was like a man with a large family of children who could not tell which he liked best because he loved them all.

There are promises of salvation, peace, power and reward, all of which are blessed; but Christ gives us one promise, known as the promise (Acts 1:4) giving it a preeminence among all the other "exceeding great and precious promises." It was the promise of the Holy Spirit, to fill the place of the ascended Redeemer.

Jesus had announced to his disciples that he was going away. He promised them that they should do even greater works than he, their Master had done, and that he would give them whatsoever they asked in his name, for his work and kingdom, but they did not even know what to ask for. They were in a world of trouble and danger and opposition, like lambs, surrounded by wolves. They had a mighty kingdom to found, but were ignorant of its nature, and of the way to found it, and were without power, without means and without a leader. They could as easily remove mountains or dethrone Cæsars. Christ now comes to them with all they need. He himself, thru the personality of the Holy Spirit will still be their leader. He will be to them all they need—power, truth, guidance, strength, inspiration and courage. And altho Christ had ascended and gone to the Father, he "continued to do and to teach"; only now by his spirit thru his disciples—the risen Jesus touching the world thru his servants and giving them his spirit, that their touch upon the world might be powerful.

The promise, "I am with you," was given to believers from the days of Abraham to the days of Paul. When God called Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees, to go out, knowing not whither he went, he assures him of his presence. To Jacob at Bethel he said, "I am with thee in all places whither thou